Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12 /084 W

-----101272 211504Z /15

R 201932Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LIMA
CINCSOUTH
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 470

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, CI, AR

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO CHILE-ARGENTINE SUMMIT

1. AFTER AN 11 HOUR ONE-ON-ONE SUMMIT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA, A DISAPPOINTINGLY BLAND JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN MENDOZA AND SANTIGO DECLARING THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE "FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT AFFECT THE SOUTHERN ZONE..." THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT RELATIVE POSITIONS HAD CHANGED. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT A SECOND SUMMIT MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON CHILEAN TERRITORY NEXT WEEK.

2. THE PRESS HERE SPECULATES THAT THE SECOND SUMMIT WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 23 OR 24 IN PORTILLO, A CHILEAN SKI RESORT 70 MILES NORTH OF SANTIAGO OR AT AN UNIDENTIFIED LOCATION IN THE SOUTH OF CHILE. IT ALSO REPORTS THAT VIDELA TOLD PINOCHET THAT ARGENTINA WOULD DECLARE THE ARBITRATION DECISION NULL AND VOIDE BECAUSE OF ITS HISTORIC AND GEOGRAPHIC ERRORS; AND THAT VIDELA UNCLASSIFIED

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AND PINOCHET AGREED TO REJECT CALLING FOR A MEDIATOR AND DISCARDED THE IDEA OF CONDOMINIUM IN THE DISPUTED AREA.

3. COMMENT. THE MEETING WAS EXTENDED REPEATEDLY BEYOND ITS PROJECTED TERMINATION, IMPOSING A FOUR HOUR AIRPORT WAIT HERE ON THE GOC'S TOP OFFICIALS AND ENCOURAGING SPECULATION THAT PINOCHET AND VIDEAL MADE MORE PROGRESS THAN IS APPARENT FROM THE

COMMUNIQUE
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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